

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00144 281646Z

72

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 903

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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UNCLAS BELFAST 144

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: VIOLENT ULSTER WEEKEND

REF: BELFAST 138

1. THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN ULSTER CLIMBED AGAIN OVER THE WEEKEND APRIL 25-28. FOUR MEN, THREE CATHOLICS ONE PROTESTANT SHOT IN WHAT MAY BE RETURN TO TIT-FOR-TAT SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS IN COUNTIES DOWN AND ARMAGH, TWO MEN PEDESTRIANS WOUNDED IN SEPARATE, APPARENTLY RANDOM, SHOOTINGS QUEENS UNIVERSITY AREA BELFAST AND THERE THREE BOOBY-TRAP TYPE BOMBINGS. TOTAL KILLED NORTHERN IRELAND SINCE 1969 NOW 2215 DESPITE GENERAL OBSERVANCE PROVISIONAL IRA CEASEFIRE. SECSTATE REES RELEASED THIRTEEN MORE REPUBLICAN DETAINEES APRIL 25 AND LOYALIST CRITICISM GROWING WITH WIDESPREAD RUMOR THAT PROVISIONAL IRA RETRAINING RELEASED DETAINEES AT COUNTY WICKLOW SITE.

2. DEDICATION OF NEW ORANGE ORDER HEADQUARTERS BELFAST IN BEAUTIFUL WEATHER APRIL 26 REVIVED STREET FIGHTING ON SCALE UNKNOWN IN RECENT MONTHS. ABOUT 400 YOUTHS ENTERED DOWNTOWN BELFAST FROM CATHOLIC FALLS ROAD AREA AND ATTACKED ORANGE
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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00144 281646Z

PARADERS. PITCHED BATTLE FOLLOWED BETWEEN YOUTHS THROWING

BRICKS AND BOTTLES AND SECURITY FORCES USING BATONS AND
RUBBER BULLETS. EIGHT POLICE AND SEVERAL CIVILIANS INJURED
AND THERE SEVERAL ARRESTS. VIOLENCE THIS OCCASION IN MARKED
CONTRAST TO LARGE ORANGE ORDER OBSERVANCE LAST JULY 12 WHICH
GENERALLY PEACEFUL.

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